



## St. Mary's County Health Department

### NEWS RELEASE

[www.smchd.org](http://www.smchd.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### HEALTH DEPARTMENT SEEKS INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY ON MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

LEONARDTOWN, MD (September 1, 2006) –St. Mary's County Health Department is seeking information, in the form of informal notes, letters, e-mails or phone calls, about the medical transportation needs of county residents, their neighbors, clients or family members. If you or a family member lacks transportation to medical appointments, and there are no other options including the public bus, your voice could make a difference in securing long term grant funding for maintenance and operation of an expanded medical transportation program.

The Health Department is completing a grant application for federal funding to expand its transportation capabilities, forming a new initiative, *Ride-2-Health*, a transportation program open to individuals who do not have other means of transportation to medical appointments. The application is the second in two years. The grant request is being supported by a consortium that includes the Health Department, St. Mary's Nursing Center, Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland, Health Share, Inc. and The

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Mental Health Authority of St. Mary's.

This year's application will include new information about the county's need for expanded transportation for medical appointments. The consortium is providing a clearer picture of the county's diverse communities, their transportation needs and the unique characteristics of local data as compared to state and federal statistics. "This information provides added value to our application, increasing the likelihood that we will succeed in getting funds for this critical need in St. Mary's County," explained Brenda Pruett, agency budget specialist at the health department.

The consortium collected information from the public to support last year's grant request. That information will be included again this year. Information received this year will further document need for the program. Supporters should send a short, written letter explaining their need. Name and address must be included. The information provided will be used to support the grant request and not for any other purpose.

Correspondence may be e-mailed to [healthdept@smhd.com](mailto:healthdept@smhd.com), or sent to William B.

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Icenhower, MD, MPH, Health Officer, St. Mary's County Health Department, PO Box 316, Leonardtown, MD 20650-0316. Phone calls will also be accepted by the health department at 301-475-4298.

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